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SCARCITY OF BREAD.

DIFFICULTAS ANNONÆ;

OR, THE

DISEASE EXAMINED;

AND THE

CURE PREMISED, &c.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

Entered at Stationer's-Hall.

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Printed at Portsmouth.

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1027. i. 19.
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By JOB WHITE-BREAD, *Philoplethus.*

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"He asked for Bread, and he received a Stone."

EPITAPH ON BUTLER.

LONDON;
Printed for H. D. SYMONDS, No. 20, Paternoster Row.
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1795.

(Price ONE SHILLING).

DIFFICULTAS ANNONÆ;

OR THE

DISEASE EXAMINED,

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CURE PREMISED.

Moſt reverend, mighty, and right ſtarving Engliſh People,

THE eye accuſtomed lately to behold the moſt extraordinary phænomena, in the revolutions that have recently filled the aſtoniſhed world with wonder and amaze, ſeems ſcarcely to be affected by the repetition of great and mighty events. Thus, although FAMINE is at your door, you hardly appear to feel its ſhock; and what would in other times have filled your anceſtors with the moſt dreadful conſternation, ſeems to have loſt half its terrors under the ſtrong impreſſions of murder, war, and devaſtation, which the affrighted mind ſees every where taking place, in a

conflict that has hitherto been unexampled in the annals of hiſtory, and finds no parallel even in the butcheries carried on by the deſpots of former ages—yet remember—"AS YE METE "UNTO OTHERS, SO SHALL IT BE METED UN- "TO YOU," ſaid that great moraliſt JESUS CHRIST; but by ſome ſtrange propenſity, men cut each other's throats for the abſurdities of their religions, without ever once dreaming of the moral precepts they contain. Theſe are, for the moſt part, thrown into the back ground like an heap of lumber, whilſt they amuſe themſelves in idle diſputes reſpecting things of which the wiſeſt among them will never be able to obtain any accurate information. Thus, whilſt you were *charitably* carrying on a ridiculous cruſade againſt the French for the reſtoration of ROYALTY and RELIGION, and had *piouſly* reſolved, if you could not oblige them to adopt thoſe ſpeculative notions which you had formed of order and government, TO STARVE EVERY SOUL OF THEM, you quite loſt ſight of a trifling matter of fact, which was, that the means you would find it neceſſary to put in practice to accompliſh this *laudable* and *humane* deter-

determination, muſt infallibly produce againſt yourſelves the very *bleſſing* that you had in contemplation for your brethren of France, a SCARCITY OF THE NECESSARIES OF LIFE: owing to the immenſe quantities of theſe articles that are ever deſtroyed in a war, ſuch as you are at preſent proſecuting; and the neceſſarily encreaſed conſumption in ſupplying large fleets and armies over and above what would be conſumed by thoſe ſame people if they were at their own homes cultivating the delightful arts of PEACE, and the profitable purſuits of TRADE, MANUFACTURE, and AGRICULTURE; *increaſing* inſtead of *diminiſhing* their ſpecies, and adding to the RICHES of their country, in lieu of expending the laſt guinea that can by any artifice be drained from the pockets of the impoveriſhed and half famiſhed inhabitants of GREAT BRITAIN.

With what rapture have you received the *joyful* news, that although you were obliged to evacuate TOWNS and FORTRESSES to the unparalleled *impudence* of a *ſansculotte* army, whoſe men marched up quite *diſmayed* to the very mouths of your cannon;

cannon; with what delight, I ſay, have you heard, that notwithſtanding theſe defeats, you had ſufficient time to deſtroy immenſe magazines of CORN and PROVISIONS, to prevent them falling into the hands of *audacious* republicans, and thereby fruſtrating your *great*, *beneficent*, and *wiſe* plan of STARVATION? With what exultation have you heard that thouſands of quarters of CORN were thrown into rivers? that immenſe magazines were burnt before the troops quitted? that the approaching HARVEST had been deſtroyed before you left the country? All theſe things were looked upon as ſo much at leaſt gained towards the object in queſtion, and I apprehended, are what conſtituted the NEGATIVE SUCCESS of which that *worthy* and *patriotic* ſtateſman WYNDHAM boaſted ſo much in the Houſe of Commons, or as ſome wicked wights call it, the houſe of the repreſentatives of the people!!!!!

Well, what is the conſequence, have you conquered France? no—have you reſtored royalty there? no—have you re-eſtabliſhed the Roman Catholic religion in France? no—have you cauſed the *infallibility* of your ally the POPE

to

to be acknowledged by the CONVENTION? No—Then what have you done? what is the negative ſucceſs that you have had? what is the return for about ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLIONS of good hard guineas expended in this *juſt* and *neceſſary* war? What is the compenſation which you have received for about ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND of your brave and infatuated countrymen, that have been murdered in this conteſt, to preſerve religion, good government, and every thing that is valuable? Why, I'll tell you—you have added an additional crown to the overloaded head of your *auguſt* and *generous* monarch, by the capture of the *valuable* iſland of CORSICA, whoſe revenues are not ſufficient to pay the ſalary of the *vice-roy*, that noble repreſentative of ſacred majeſty, SIR GILBERT ELLIOT, to whoſe exertions in deſtroying proviſions at TOULON, you have an inexhauſtible debt of gratitude—becauſe they have contributed to that happy ſituation in which you are at the preſent moment;—you have had your Weſt India iſlands of GRENADA and ST. VINCENT's almoſt entirely deſtroyed, if you have not loſt them;—you have had your commerce

and your manufactures nearly ruined;—you have nearly exhauſted your country of men and money;—you have drained it of PROVISIONS;—you have reduced the labouring poor to a ſtate of ſtarvation;—you have already raiſed the price of BREAD TO ONE SHILLING AND ONE HALFPENNY the quartern loaf, MEAT and VEGETABLES in proportion;—you have obliged the inhabitants of the peaceful villages to commit riots and diſorders for the obtainment of that without which man ſoon ceaſes to draw the breath of life, and occupies the ſilent tomb, inſtead of the buſy manufactory;—you have firſt reduced your ſoldiery to a ſtate of want, and then cruelly puniſhed them for endeavouring to procure the articles of neceſſary conſumption at a reaſonable rate;—you have gone very near to produce a FAMINE in this once glorious land of plenty;—and to crown the whole, you have increaſed your national debt to upwards of THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY MILLIONS of money, the annual intereſt of which is TWELVE MILLIONS and upwards, as the following ſtatement will ſhew you!

STATE

STATE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

	Principal.	Intereſt and Expences of Management.
Contracted before your preſent miniſter, the *virtuous* Mr. Pitt, came into office	£	£
in 1784 - - -	256,964,078	9,172,363
Borrowed on tontine, 1789 -	1,002,140	43,000
Preſent value of ſhort annuities, 1789	133,385	14,001
Three per cent. conſolidated bank annuities, borrowed 1793 -	6,250,000	190,312
Ditto, borrowed in 1794 -	11,000,000	334,950
Four per cent. conſolidated bank annuities, borrowed in 1794 -	2,750,000	111,238
Preſent value of long annuities, borrowed in 1794 - -	1,268,520	63,350
Navy bills converted into 5 per cent. bank annuities, in 1794 -	1,949,330	98,343
Three per cent. conſolidated bank annuities, borrowed in 1795 -	18,000,000	548,100
Four per cent. conſolidated bank annuities, borrowed in 1795 - -	6,000,000	242,700
Preſent value of long annuities, borrowed 1795 - -	1,531,836	77,175
Navy debt, converted into 5 per cent. bank annuities, in 1795 at 108 -	2,012,040	101,506
Total of funded debt - -	308,861,329	10,997,038
Exchequer bills - - -	6,000,000	
Vote of credit for the army and navy, in the year 1795 - -	4,000,000	
Ways and means ſhort of the ſupplies in 1795 - -	395,000	
Deficiency in the conſolidated fund, in April 1795 - -	87,416	
A debt not paid by the Eaſt India Company, but taken as part of the ſupplies in 1794 - -	500,000	
Navy debt and ordnance debt, ſuppoſed at leaſt - - -	2,500,000	
Theſe taken at 5 per cent. the intereſt will be - - -		674,150
To all this may be added the Imperial loan, which conſiſting of five millions in the 3 per cents. and three hundred thouſand pounds per annum, for twenty-five years; worth 4,335,000l. making the whole of this loan amount to -	9,335,000	450,000
Total of the national debt and intereſt	331,678,745	12,121,188

This, if converted into 3 per cents. would make up the *trifling* ſum of 383,823,294l. Of this pretty little ſnug ſum to pay, the intereſt of which operates as a poll-tax of at leaſt TWO POUNDS per head, per annum, for men, women, children and infants, throughout the iſland, your are beholden to your preſent *immaculate* miniſter for at leaſt EIGHTY MILLIONS!!! and half as much more muſt be added ſhould the war cloſe to-morrow, how much it may be neceſſary to add ſhould you continue it is not to be calculated. Now let me ſeriouſly aſk you, what quantity of proviſions a man who hath a wife and three ſmall children, which thouſands of the labouring and ſtarving poor have, whoſe earnings put together perhaps amount to TWENTY POUNDS per ann. can obtain, when you deduct from this pittance firſt TEN POUNDS for intereſt of the national debt, and then FIVE POUNDS more for the expences of government; beſides other contingencies?—for ſuch is the actual ſtate of the caſe, although perhaps he does not pay this ſum immediately out of his weekly allowance, yet he pays his landlord more for his LODGING on account of the taxes levied upon every article of conſumption, whether of neceſſity or ornament;—

He

he pays more for his SOAP, CANDLES, SHOES, BREAD, MEAT, CLOTHES, for the ſame reaſon;—in ſhort, the actual conſumer is obliged by an addition to the price of every thing to reimburſe thoſe who directly pay the taxes, not only for what they actually pay, but alſo to allow them a profit for the riſk of laying out money in the firſt inſtance; and when it is again reflected, that this reimburſement and profit goes through perhaps *ſix*, *ſeven*, or *eight* hands, each of whom add a trifle before the commodity comes to the hands of the LABORIOUS CULTIVATOR and INDUSTRIOUS MECHANIC, it muſt ſtrike every man of feeling and humanity, that thoſe who by their manual labour contribute in the moſt ample degree to the riches and proſperity of their country, can ſcarcely draw ſufficient from their toil to ſupport human nature; and are by no means ſo well fed as the dogs of the neighbouring 'ſquire.

To be ſure, he muſt be a madman, a jacobin, a leveller, a vile republican, an enemy to all ſocial order, who does not conceive theſe things are an ample remuneration, for all the vexations, diſgrace, diſaſters, diſappointments, poverty, mur-

murder, and other calamities that have attended a WAR ſo *juſtly* and *neceſſarily* undertaken, becauſe without it you would perhaps have been in a ſtate of unparalleled proſperity, have become almoſt the only carriers of Europe, have increaſed in trade and population beyond any former example—and inſtead of being reduced to BEGGARY and WANT, have enjoyed the moſt enviable PLENTY—and unbounded RICHES.

But we may ſurely be allowed, without the imputation of HIGH TREASON, without being conſidered as ENEMIES to our country, without being branded as REBELS to the *beſt* of KINGS, and *wiſeſt* of miniſters, to ſay, that although we have *moſt certainly* been *amply* rewarded for our *benevolent*, *kind*, and *unexampled* endeavours to bring the French people back again into—a proper ſenſe of the POPE's *infallibility*, and a *juſt regard* for that religion we ſo much deſpiſe—of a *neceſſary* and *indiſpenſible* reſpect for the RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, and DESPOTISM of their monarchs—ſuch a ſtate that may render them capable of holding the accuſtomed relations with civilized nations, ſuch as RUS-

SIA

SIA and others; and have certainly met with a *ſucceſs* unheard of by any people who have hitherto inhabited this terreſtrial globe; yet all our preſent ſcarcity is to be attributed to the WAR, and to this ſource alone; for although a reverend divine hath gravely ſaid, and I do not queſtion that he had the information from *heaven*, the *birth place* of his friend the miniſter, that providence ſent it as a ſcourge for our ſins and iniquities, himſelf and friend excepted, indeed, we cannot queſtion but for their *righteouſneſs* much heavier calamities would have befallen us; yet it is pretty evident to any one who will take the trouble of making the calculation that more CORN and PROVISIONS have been actually deſtroyed by the different belligerent powers than would have ſupplied the preſent deficiency throughout Europe—how it has happened that DOCTOR VINCENT ſhould have for this time *alone* received bad information, I know not, unleſs the deſtinies had a mind to make their ſport of his oratory at the London Tavern, and reduce his wig, gown, and caſſock into laughing ſtocks for thoſe incredulous beings who think MAN more than GOD is the occaſion

caſion of all thoſe EVILS that ſo frequently overwhelm the human race, and bury the greater part of it in FAMINE, PESTILENCE and MURDER.

I ſhould, therefore, think, that putting a ſpeedy end to the preſent *juſt* and *neceſſary* WAR, undertaken with a *proper ſenſe* of our duties to RELIGION, but againſt which the gods themſelves ſeem to have ſet their faces by the little proſpect there is of a plentiful harveſt in this *moderately taxed* country, and the *great faith* they have inſpired into our allies, would be the moſt certain way of diminiſhing the ſcarcity of CORN ſo much complained of at preſent; becauſe it would enable us to receive ſupplies from foreign countries, without the riſk of their being intercepted by thoſe *ill-mannered* republicans of France, and prevent a great part of our preſent conſumption, by rendering it unneceſſary for us to ſupply our new KINGDOM OF CORSICA, and many parts of France with that BREAD which our own poor ſtand ſo much in need of: but if the *great*, *potent*, and *all-wiſe*

Mr.

Mr. PITT, *our very worthy and approved good master*, ſhould differ in opinion with me I yield, becauſe he being of *heavenly* extraction, and I a poor mortal, made of clay, it would be *blaſphemous* preſumption to contend the point with him. I only give a hint—which in his eyes will be no better for being founded on TRUTH.

There is an old proverb which ſays, "WE NEVER CAN HAVE TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING," this your miniſters ſeem determined to follow—and now at the moment when you are ſtarving, fearing leaſt returning abundance might diſſipate the complaints, and relieve the diſtreſſes of the poor, they have *wiſely* undertaken to ſupply with PROVISIONS an immenſe army of EMIGRANTS, CHOUANS, and ROYALISTS, on the coaſt of Brittany; in an expedition to again attempt marching to PARIS, there to eſtabliſh the throne of LOUIS THE EIGHTEENTH, on a ſolid and durable foundation, and in ſuch a manner that it may be enabled to hold the accuſtomed relations of peace and amity with other nations—ſhould you be ſo unkind as to aſk what are theſe relations which

the KINGS OF FRANCE have been accuſtomed to hold? why truth muſt ſay, that they have been thoſe of a perpetual ſtate of warfare againſt their neighbours—eternally ſtirring up animoſity amongſt the different ſtates of Europe, and an almoſt continued war for theſe laſt hundred years, againſt this *happy* country, in attempting the reſtoration of the houſe of STUART to the throne of ENGLAND, and by conſequence the excluſion of the preſent family.—I think I ſee you ſtart back in a paroxyſm of indignation, and hear you aſk, and is it theſe people that we are ſpending ſo much blood and treaſure to reſtore? is it for theſe CAPETS that our poor are to be fed, by the bounty of the rich, with coarſe rice and potatoes, whilſt our good wheaten flour is exported to feed their armies, in the BRISGAW and BRITTANY? Softly my good friends! do not be at all ſurprized, it betrays a weakneſs, and ſhews that you are totally unacquainted with the *pious zeal* and *devout religion* of your *amiable* and *diſintereſted* monarch; remember that the ſcriptures, every word of which he believes and follows *ſtrictly*, ſay, "LOVE "YOUR ENEMIES AND DO GOOD TO THEM "THAT HATE YOU;" it is therefore, that

our

our *gracious* ſovereign, above all paltry conſiderations of ſelf-intereſt, is determined to ſhew what a *ſincere* chriſtian he is, by uſing every effort even at the riſque of a FAMINE, to place this family again on the throne of their anceſtors, although they have always endeavoured by every means in their power to drive him and his family from that of ENGLAND; nay ſooner than fail in this part of the chriſtian duty, periſh our people!—let them ſtarve! let them rot! let them eat grains, or what they can get! our couſin of France muſt be reſtored, and his troops wont fight unleſs they are ſupplied with food; therefore, if either muſt go without, let it be the good people of England, who by this means will lay up treaſure in heaven, and render themſelves worthy of ſupporting the cauſe of deſpotiſm and bigotted religion!!! what are the cries of wretched women and ſtarving children, compared to the great principle of *rendering good for evil*; no, no, no, no, the war muſt, muſt, muſt be continued—LOUIS muſt and ſhall be reſtored to the throne, and the *vile* democrats of France be puniſhed for having dared to diſpute the *Divine Right of* KINGS!!

Better it were for all the people of the earth to periſh in one univerſal FAMINE, than ſuffer a ſet of audacious Republicans to eſtabliſh a government for themſelves, to the excluſion of that *uſeful* and *engaging* creature, from whom men have hitherto drawn all their *happineſs*, with not a few of their miſeries, a KING.—"*If they prevail Othello's occupation's gone.*"—The remedy would be worſe than the diſeaſe; for, although you would be reſtored to PLENTY, yet the kingly office would have received a blow that could not be compenſated by the felicity of all the people on earth; ſhould they break thoſe chains of ſlavery to-morrow, which at preſent bind the greater part of them in an ignominious ſtate of bondage, and reſpire the vital air of freedom, which is the undoubted right of every man breathing; and would, but for the *kindneſs* of MONARCHY, have *infected* every part of the habitable globe.

What a pity it is that theſe *noble, generous*, and *truly chriſtian* projects ſhould meet with any obſtruction; yet ſuch is the perverſeneſs of human

man nature, that men can ſeldom or never be perſuaded what is for their good.—The republicans, therefore, not ſeeing the neceſſity of reeſtabliſhing the family of the CAPETS in the ſame light that you do, perhaps they have more reſpect for the *illuſtrious* houſe of BRUNSWICK than to reſtore to its moſt bitter enemy the means of exerciſing its enmity, have made a ſtout reſiſtance to the royal army who landed on the Peninſula of Quiberon, they have made I ſay an obſtinate reſiſtance to their offers of monarchy, and beaten them in a terrible engagement; by which means you have been acceſſary to the ſupplying of the French even in deſpite of the Treaſonable Correſpondence Bill, with *ſeventy thouſand* muſkets, *forty thouſand* ſuits of *ſcarlet* regimentals, *one hundred and fifty thouſand* PAIRS of SHOES, an *immenſe* quantity of STORES, AMMUNITION, and PROVISIONS, *five* ſhips laden with CORN, and the upper deck guns of three of your line of battle ſhips, which were landed to mount batteries; theſe having fallen to the lot of the conquering republicans after they had killed and taken about *ten thouſand* of the royal army in Brittany and put the reſt to the route—thoſe who have been able

to effect their eſcape, have taken refuge in the neighbouring iſlands of HOUAT, HEDIO, &c. where, if you do not feed them, they muſt ſtarve; and, if you do, you muſt ſtarve yourſelves. This, to be ſure, is but an aukward beginning, but EARL MOIRA is to carry them a reinforcement of *fourteen* Britiſh regiments, another quantity of emigrants, a large ſupply of PROVISIONS and MONEY; and then no doubt can be entertained of the moſt complete ſucceſs—at leaſt ſhould you fail, no one can ſay you have not done every thing in your power to obtain your object, even until you were ſtarved. "*It is not in mortals to command ſucceſs, but we'll* "*do more, Sempronius, we'll deſerve it.*"

Now, I wiſh to aſk you, whether it might not be as well to conſider before you go on further in this expedition to the coaſts of BRITTANY, or with any other expedition of an hoſtile nature, and undertake the ſupplying of whole French provinces with BREAD, that England has not of late years, owing to the conſolidation of a number of ſmall farms into one, and the prevalence of the more genteel profeſſion of a gentleman farmer, and

feeding cattle over that of tilling the land, produced a ſufficient quantity of CORN for its own conſumption and is therefore obliged to depend itſelf for ſupplies on the aid of foreign corn—which, by the accounts received, appears now to have become, by the continuance of the war, ſcarce in every part of Europe; indeed about TWO MILLIONS AND A HALF of your own money paid in ſubſidies to the KING of PRUSSIA were employed in the deſtruction of that fine country POLAND, which has ever been conſidered as the granary of Europe; and the people of thoſe fertile plains are reduced almoſt to a ſtate of ſtarving by the immenſe magazines of CORN, and other proviſions deſtroyed by the arms of RUSSIA and PRUSSIA in that devoted land, where freedom's ſun ſeems to have ſet for ever by the exertions of the allies of BRITAIN!!! To prove to you that I do not make an aſſertion unfounded in fact, I have ſubjoined the following ſtatements as laid on the table of the Houſe of Commons.

By order of parliament in 1765, a return from all the officers, at the different ports throughout the kingdom, was made of *imports* and *exports* of

corn

CORN for the laſt nineteen years, viz. from 1746 to 1765, and it was found that a profit of 19,369,000 pounds ſterling, or about ONE MILLION per annum, was in favour of England.

The like order was made in 1784 for the laſt fourteen years, when it was found by the following ſtatement that a loſs of 3,933,871 pounds ſterling, or about three hundred thouſand pounds per annum was ſuſtained by England, making the quantity of CORN grown, ſuppoſing the conſumption nearly the ſame, leſs by ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND pounds per annum than formerly, and abſolutely leſs than the conſumption of the kingdom, by about THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND pounds yearly. This is a ſerious TRUTH, well worthy the conſideration of every one who is not blinded by his admiration of the *divine* talents of your *heaven-born* miniſter, and who prefers an enquiry into the real ſtate of things to a ſtupid enthuſiaſm for the WAR however *juſt* and *neceſſary* it may be; and who thinks PLENTY at home a thing of more conſequence than the reſtoration of MONARCHY in France.

RETURN

RETURN OF CORN EXPORTED AND IMPORTED FOR THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS, ENDING 1784.

	£	Loſs to England. £	Gained by England. £	Average per quar. in 1765. s. d.	Ditto in 1784. s. d.
Imports of wheat	2,345,918	939,124		32 3	43 8
Exports ditto	1,406,794				
Imports oats	3,566,907	3,178,556		14	16
Exports ditto	388,351				
Imports rye	240,940	195,997			10 3
Exports ditto	44,943				
Imports beans, &c.	463,996	103,940			28 4
Exports ditto	360,056				
Exports barley	1,164,304		483,746	17 8	23 8
Imports ditto	680,558				
		4,417,617	483,746		
From which deduct		483,746			
Actual loſs ſuſtained by England		3,933,871			

That is, ſhe produced ſo much leſs corn than would ſatisfy the conſumption of her inhabitants by the above ſum OF THREE MILLION NINE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-ONE POUNDS in the courſe of FOURTEEN YEARS. This does not look like producing as much in ONE year as will ſerve the inhabitants SEVEN, as ſome ſpeculators have pretended.

Many plans have been deviſed for alleviating the diſtreſſes of the half-ſtarved inhabitants of this *happy* country, whoſe miniſters conduct all its affairs in ſo *proſperous* a manner; amongſt

the reſt, that of Mr. FREND deſerves particular attention and commendation for the great principles of humanity which it breaths forth;—but no plan is ſo particularly calculated to reſtore you the bleſſings of PLENTY as that of making an immediate PEACE. And here let me aſk you ſeriouſly, Whether it would not be more for your general advantage, and contribute much more eſſentially to your happineſs, to ſuffer the FRENCH PEOPLE quietly to ſettle their form of government, agreeable to their own ideas, and thereby to revive trade and reſtore abundance, than, by continuing the WAR, *which now has not, nor ever had any chance of ſucceſs*, experience all the horrors of POVERTY and WANT; to feel a ſcarcity of the neceſſaries of life; to ſee your commerce ruined—your manufactories deſerted—the wives and children of artificers and huſbandmen famiſhing, and dependent for their exiſtence on the hard hearts of the RICH and GREAT, *who too generally hate the very ſmell of indigence and diſtreſs?* From every honeſt breaſt, fraught with the tender ſentiments of humanity, the anſwer is obvious. From PENSIONERS, MINISTERS, and CONTRACTORS,

TORS, I do not aſk a reply. Their callous ſouls, dead to every ſympathetic feeling, are incapable of conſidering it in its true point of view.—"*Let the galled jade wince; our withers are un-*"*wrung.*"

But ſurely amongſt all the ridiculous traſh that ever obtruded itſelf on public notice, the ſcheme projected by the PRIVY COUNCIL for reducing the ſcarcity and price of BREAD, was the moſt quixotic; to recommend to a people groaning under the moſt acute poverty, the ſubſtituting meat at EIGHT PENCE the pound, in lieu of bread which they could buy for THREE PENCE argued a wanton playfulneſs with the feelings of men that one would have ſcarcely thought it poſſible for any one in human form to be guilty of—it was aggravating miſery by the moſt cruel of all poſſible means, at the ſame time it diſplayed an ignorance that would have diſgraced a ſchoolboy, and ſhewed, in a pretty ſtrong light, the incapacity and inattention of thoſe whoſe firſt duty ſhould conſiſt in procuring for the people, who pay them ſo handſomely for their ſervices, a proper and regular

ſupply on every neceſſary of life—How could they ſuppoſe that thoſe who, by the quartern loaf being at ONE SHILLING, were reduced to the very jaws of ſtarvation, could afford to buy an article that would not go as far, and coſt almoſt three times the money? did they in this moment reflect, that but a few days before when they were petitioning parliament to pay the debts of the heir apparent, contracted in a moſt ſcandalous and ſhameful manner—in ſuch a manner that he dares not even bring forward before that public who are to pay them the different items which compoſe the enormous ſum of near SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS—did they reflect, I ſay, that in order to induce this parliament to encreaſe the revenue of the prince from SIXTY THOUSAND to ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS per annum that one of their principal arguments was the enormous increaſe in the price of all the neceſſaries of life? if they had, they would never have attempted to outrage humanity ſo much as thus ſportingly to inſult the feelings of the great maſs of the people—they would rather have come

forward

forward in a manly manner, and have ſaid, it is true we have been in an error in commencing the WAR, which has, we ſee with pain, brought upon the inhabitants unexampled wretchedneſs, but as human nature is liable to err we can now do no more than endeavour to make every amends in our power by reſtoring PEACE, and thereby remove thoſe calamities which have been attendant on a war began impolitically and carried on with imbecility; this would have been the language of men not dead to every generous impulſe of nature—but alas! our rulers ſeem to have hardened their hearts in proportion as their blunders have ruined their country.

Plans may be deviſed, no doubt, that will afford a temporary relief; the QUEEN and the PRINCESSES may leave off the uſe of HAIR POWDER, and induce a faſhion that ſhall diminiſh the conſumption of CORN; they may eat BROWN BREAD, made of the whole produce of the grain, and thus make the ſtock go farther. But I aſk you ſeriouſly, if you believe that theſe and twenty other ſuch regulations, which always bear the ſemblance of conſtraint, will prevent

FAMINE

FAMINE from ſtaring you in face? I anſwer, No! and that, whilſt you continue the WAR, be it *juſt*, *neceſſary*, or *otherwiſe*, you muſt ſupply your FLEETS and ARMIES with PROVISIONS; you muſt run the riſk of having your CORN ſhips captured; you muſt tranſport proviſions to whatever part of the world you ſend your troops on hoſtile expeditions, and that in *greater* abundance than their actual demand; becauſe, at a diſtance from home, and in an enemy's country, it will not do to depend entirely on the regular arrival of VICTUATLING CONVOYS: theſe things, added to the chances of war, by which much of theſe proviſions are *damaged*, *taken*, *ſpoiled*, and *deſtroyed*, are the cauſes of that paucity which the inhabitants of England experience, which render the POOR deſperate, and neceſſarily diminiſh the fortunes of the RICH; remove this CAUSE, and, my word for it, the EFFECT WILL CEASE. Beſides, by recalling your troops from the murderous trade of war, you may employ them more profitably to themſelves, more advantageouſly for their country, and more conſiſtently with the tenets of the chriſtian religion, in cultivating the waſte lands, which, in a very

ſhort

ſhort time will effectually drive every veſtige of want from the iſland. Carry this a little farther, and make the HOUSE of COMMONS really the repreſentation of the whole people, by reſtoring to every man his RIGHT of voting for his member, and you will quickly have honeſt miniſters —you will ſoon diminiſh your DEBT and your TAXES—you will cauſe all the complaints of the people to vaniſh; they will then aſſiduouſly employ themſelves in improving their manufactures, in opening new ſources of commerce—in perfectioning the uſeful arts of huſbandry—and the general reſult will be, that where MISERY and FAMINE now rear their deſolating heads, FELICITY and PLENTY will drive them from your ſhores; population will encreaſe; trade will flouriſh; taxes be leſſened; and, inſtead of your induſtrious ARTIZANS emigrating by *hundreds* and *thouſands* to the hoſpitable and happy ſhores of AMERICA, for want of employment, and on account of the heavy impoſts laid on their overburthened ſhoulders, they will remain at home, and unite in one firm phalanx, to reſtore and cheriſh the luſtre of the Britiſh name,—*ſomewhat tarniſhed by your late proceedings*; they

will become enamoured with a country who ſhall no longer act as a ſtep-mother to them, by partially giving to ſome idle drones abundance, and ſuffering the moſt induſtrious of its inhabitants to ſtarve for want of the common neceſſaries of life. Meetings at the LONDON, or, indeed, any other tavern, for the relief of the poor, will be rendered unneceſſary; the ſweet harmony of PEACE will for ever baniſh the diſcordant ſounds of WAR, and ENGLISHMEN will rear, on the ruins of their paſt oppreſſions, an immutable altar to their favourite and long forſaken goddeſs LIBERTY, before whoſe ſhrine they will ſacrifice all thoſe animoſities, that at preſent rend the boſom of a country highly favoured by nature, and whoſe effulgent beams ſhall for ever diſperſe the noxious vapours of PLACEMEN, PENSIONERS CONTRACTORS and FAMINE, that at preſent ſtupify and inebriate the people of ENGLAND.

JOB WHITE-BREAD,
PHILOPLETHUS.

From the Land of Famine,
1 Aug. 1795.